

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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VOLUME XL.....NO. 46

AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT.

ROMAN HIPPODROME.
Twenty-sixth street and Fourth avenue.—Afternoon and evening, at 2 and 8.

THEATRE COMIQUE.
No. 514 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.
Twenty-eighth street and Broadway.—WOMEN OF THE DAY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Lewis, Miss Danvers, Mrs. Gilbert.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE.
No. 201 Bowery.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

LYCEUM THEATRE.
Fourth street and Sixth avenue.—OFF THE LINE and THE DOUGHER, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. J. L. Todd.

RYAN'S OPERA HOUSE.
West Twenty-third street, near Sixth avenue.—NEGRO MINSTRELS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 P. M. Dan Bryant.

BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE.
COLONEL SINN'S VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

OWMANIA THEATRE.
Fourth street.—THE FLEDERMAUS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. M. J. Corbett.

PARK THEATRE.
Broadway.—French Opera House.—GIROFLO-GIROFLA, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

NIBLO'S.
Broadway.—THE OCTOBER, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Edwin F. Thorne.

BOOTH'S THEATRE.
corner of Twenty-third street and Sixth avenue.—HENRY V., at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.
Broadway, corner of Twenty-ninth street.—NEGRO MINSTRELS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

ROBINSON HALL.
Sixteenth street and Third avenue.—CARE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. Macabe.

ACADEMY OF DESIGN.
corner of Twenty-third street and Fourth avenue.—EXHIBITION OF WATER COLOUR PAINTINGS. Open from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M. and from 6 P. M. to 10 P. M.

WALLACE'S THEATRE.
Broadway.—THE OCTOBER, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. Boucicault.

WOODS' MUSEUM.
Broadway, corner of Thirtieth street.—MARKED FOR LIFE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.—MULL FITCHIE.

TIVOLI THEATRE.
Eight street between Second and Third avenues.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.
No. 204 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

WITH SUPPLEMENT.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1875.

From our reports this morning the probabilities are that the weather to-day will be colder and clear.

HOME IN JERSEY and Brooklyn is only home when you reach there.

THE DEPARTURE of King Kalakaua for the Sandwich Islands is picturesquely narrated in our San Francisco letter to-day, and his opinions of his American tour are given in an interview with our correspondent.

THE PROCLAMATION of the Cubans, setting forth their grievances and complaining of the inefficiency of the Spanish rulers, is elsewhere published. The "good Spaniards" are evidently weary of the fruitless struggle, and especially tired of taxation and tyranny in Havana.

THE LATE WAR bequeathed France many military lawsuits, the question generally being one of treachery to the Empire or infidelity to the nation. The Wimpfen case is one of the recent instances, and shows that after Sedan it was difficult to reconcile service to the Emperor with duty to France.

THE ICE still continues to obstruct the rivers and the bay, and yesterday a serious obstacle to local travel between New York and the adjacent cities. The only persons who seemed to enjoy the ice were the skaters, and they certainly have had no such opportunity for years.

THE EXACT TRUTH ABOUT ARKANSAS is very important for the country to know now, when the President proposes to Congress the destruction of the State government and threatens to undertake the task himself. The personnel of the government, the political situation and the general condition of Arkansas society are described in our letter from Little Rock to-day. Mr. Brooks, as will be seen in our Washington despatches, anticipates trouble next summer which may require the interference of the President; but his views are not supported by those of our correspondent, who is in a better position to judge impartially of the facts.

WE PUBLISH ELSEWHERE a letter from Mr. Gladstone, ex-Prime Minister of England, addressed to the Faculty of Union College, declining the election to its Chancellorship. Mr. Gladstone writes that nothing but his constant and overwhelming occupation prevents his accepting the honor conferred upon him by the Board of Governors of Union College; that he laments to say that he must "make over to you, to younger and to less occupied men the hope of crossing the Atlantic." The election of Mr. Gladstone to the Chancellorship of this institution is the first time that an honor of this kind has been paid to a foreigner. The compliment could have been bestowed upon no one more worthy. We are sorry to abandon the hope of seeing Mr. Gladstone in this country, where he would be received with all the honor due to his character, his genius and fame.

Martial Law in Time of Peace.

The republican caucus on Friday night, at a stormy meeting, determined on a bill "for the better government of the Southern States," in which, after providing for the punishment of a number of offences and the arrest of offenders by United States officers, a final clause empowers the President, "in his discretion," to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in any State of the Union, "whenever in any State unlawful combinations shall be organized or attempted, and so numerous and powerful as to be able, by violence, to set at defiance or overturn any State authorities."

It would be well before any member of Congress votes for this monstrous proposition that he should take the trouble to read over the constitution and study for a little while the system of government of which Congress is a part. He will discover that when in any State a case of rebellion against the local or State authorities happens, too powerful for the local authorities to deal with, the Legislature of the State, or the Governor in case the Legislature cannot be assembled, has the right to call on the President for help, and it is his duty to give assistance to the State authorities. In that case he has abundant authority under the constitution to act, and he acts as the auxiliary of the State government. Is not that sufficient? Does it not cover every possible case?

But this bill proceeds upon an entirely different principle. It ignores the constitution entirely. It proposes that the President shall decide when, where and how to interfere—he, and not the Governor of a State, is to be the judge of the emergency. He, and not the Governor, is to decide what is rebellion, what is a combination, when it is numerous and when it is about to overturn the local government, and "in his discretion" to suspend the writ of habeas corpus, and, in effect, declare martial law.

Such powers, even if they were constitutional, ought not to be intrusted to a ruler in a time of peace, except with safeguards which are not found in the bill or thought of by those who framed it. They ought not to be intrusted to any ruler who had not given the strongest evidences of attachment to constitutional liberty. But they are to be intrusted to a President who has shown himself conspicuously regardless of constitutional limitations and contemptuous of the laws, whose whole course as President has shown his incapacity to comprehend civil government, and whose more recent acts have shocked and alarmed the whole country.

The "discretion" which allowed a State Legislature to be dispersed by federal troops; which authorized the "banditti" despatch; which allowed federal soldiers to drive out of office a sheriff at Vicksburg; which, but the other day, amazed and alarmed the country by a cool proposition to overturn the established, and by himself acknowledged, State government in Arkansas, to such "discretion" are now to be intrusted powers clearly unknown to the constitution, and involving the gravest question—the question of peace or war.

Ten years after the surrender of Appomattox, ten years after the close of the great war, the party which has been uninterruptedly in power since 1861 proposes this monstrous and unconstitutional legislation. Is it not startling? Is it not shameful?

But it is not the republican party which proposes this to make General Grant dictator. The republican party contains a great part of the intelligent, the moderate and conservative people of the country. The republican party in Congress has among its members many of the ablest statesmen of the land. Does any one pretend that this proposition has their approval? No; it is proposed, it is urged, it is pressed by the bummers, the hangers-on of the party, by Southern members who have no constituency, by Northern members whose political career ends on the 4th of March, by the adventurer element which remains to us from the war.

But it is not time for the decent members of the republican party to assert themselves and to put down the camp followers who speak in their name? If any republican is attached to his party and hopes for an honorable future, or any future at all, it is high time for him to speak. If this wild scheme is brought before the House it is not for the democrats to oppose it. Let them put the responsibility where it belongs. It is for the republican leaders—the Blaines, the Hales, the Dawses, the Willards, the Phelps—to rise in their places and declare that they are the republican party, and that they are not concerned in this conspiracy against the public liberties and the public safety. It belongs to them to denounce it, not as individuals, but in the name of the republican party. They have been silent long enough: just as long as the country will bear. If now they are not bold and outspoken they may as well die, for their political careers will be ended in disgrace. The country will not forgive the carpet-baggers and adventurers who have consorted and who favor this shameful proposition; but it will forgive still less those men of honorable fame who shall now pass it by in silence, or with a timid and faltering opposition. If these men are wise they will not suffer the infamous caucus bill—they will meet it in the House, and condemn it in the name of the party whose leaders they aspire to be.

The object of this extraordinary measure is not to correct an existing condition of disorder, but ostensibly to provide for disorders which may happen hereafter. It is intended to give the President supreme power during the vacation of Congress, and virtually to place at his feet the Legislatures and the Governors of all the States. In other words, it is created for political purposes, and not to meet any practical necessities of the country. We have said that the country will not forgive the men who have consorted it in canons, and we may now add that it will not forgive the man who inspired that caucus. There is good reason to believe that this scheme for establishing martial law throughout the country in time of peace was proposed to the republicans by the President himself, and that his influence will be exerted to carry it through Congress. This is made probable by the fact that he alone is to possess and exercise the unconstitutional authority the bill proposes to confer. If this belief be true, then the people will be forced to receive the attempt as a new step in the intrigue for a third term. The President is constructing a

ladder upon which he expects to mount to imperial heights of power, and Louisiana, Vicksburg, Arkansas, and martial law in the South, are but some of the rungs on which his feet are placed. The people of the United States; however, may say, as Richelieu said of Baradas, "But I hold the ladder, and when I shake he falls."

The Fifth Avenue Pavement.

The impression seems to be universal that any experiments with the pavement of Fifth avenue will be a blunder. The history of pavements in great cities is a simple and expressive one. We want a pavement that will stand the test of time—not simply a chemical experiment, which may or may not be successful. The argument in favor of an asphalt pavement is not sustained by experience. Asphalt can be tempered into a very useful commodity; but with our experience of extreme heat and cold it would be madness to expect the good service from asphalt that we have had from stone. Even granite is so irregular in quality that there would be no assurance that a granite pavement would be useful all the year round. There are many varieties of granite—soft and hard, crumbling, rotten and sound—and when the blocks are massed together in a pavement, under the pressure of wheels and hoofs, they very soon present an uneven and unpleasant surface. Thus far, therefore, we have seen no pavement that satisfies the wants of a great city as well as the one laid down by Macadam in England. It may cost a little more to Macadamize Fifth avenue. When once done it will be forever. Let us have an avenue worthy of the Park, worthy of the metropolis and of the great wealth and beauty of this thoroughfare; but do not let us destroy Fifth avenue by foolish experiments in chemistry.

"The Good Old Times."

In these days of corruption and miscellaneous depravity it is interesting to observe how politics and statesmanship were managed in the good old times "when George III. was King." Lord Russell, in his recent book of "Recollections and Suggestions," gives us an idea of the Parliament of 1812. Those statesmen who desire to go back to English precedents in order to reform our present political system will find many of the Earl's statements to be interesting. In this Parliament there was one noble lord who used to go out hunting, followed by a detail of six or seven members of Parliament of his own making. This reminds us of the time when the absent Tweed was wont to take a carload of statesmen to Albany to vote for his measures. "Another lord," says Lord Russell, "being asked who should be returned from one of his boroughs, named a waiter at White's Club. But as he did not even know the man's name the election was declared to be void, and another special election was held, when the waiter was duly elected." It is a matter of regret that His Lordship did not give us the name of this peer, who took this means of strengthening the representative influence of Great Britain, as well as that of the member of Parliament who found himself so suddenly transferred from the kitchens of a club house to the venerable halls of St. Stephen.

There was quite an industry in these good old times in the way of "borough mongering," as it was called. The object of the professors of this singular art was to buy up freehold tenures in a small borough, so as to reduce the number of electors to a "manageable quantity." "If a freeholder refused to sell," says Lord Russell, "it was not a very uncommon practice to blow up his house with gunpowder, and thus disfranchise a political opponent. In this manner a number of nomination boroughs were created, and they became a valuable property." In these good old times, when everybody was virtuous and statesmen were especially pure, a seat for the whole duration of a Parliament was sold for \$25,000. Subsequently, as political controversy became more acrimonious, when Parliaments were subject to sudden dissolution, prudent men made a bargain to pay \$5,000 a year so long as they sat in the House of Commons. Among those who obtained seats in this way was Sir Francis Burdett, a celebrated radical reformer.

These glimpses of the good old times are instructive. When we read the works of Walpole and Greville and the memoirs of the men who surrounded the court of George III. and who followed in the train of Fox and Pitt, we wonder if, after all, our grandfathers were as good as the preachers would have us believe.

The Plumber of the Period.

In such weather as this the plumber becomes a household necessity. He is like the tinker and the doctor, difficult to keep away, and, once admitted to the house, more difficult to get rid of. The Arctic cold which has for the past few weeks visited New York has played many tricks with the water pipes and hydrants, and the plumber is called upon to remedy the ravages of the frost. In the discharge of his task he necessarily pulls down and then charges for building up again, and his miscellaneous items are the terror of the unfortunate proprietor. The frozen pipes are typical of his icy heart, and when he relieves our distresses it is only to impose other obligations. A plumber in a house is the next worst thing to the evil he undertakes to remove, and to engage him is like inviting your mother-in-law for a week or so. In neither case do you know when the visit will end.

At present there are not enough plumbers in the city, and those who know the trade have more to attend to than they can readily perform. Probably in two-thirds of the houses of this city the water pipes are frozen, or have burst, or are otherwise disabled by the intense cold. Our reports show the many discomforts and dangers which result from this condition of affairs. Fire and frost are, as a rule, irreconcilable foes; but now we find them allies, whose united force we have many reasons to dread. The plumber, who can alone liberate the water in our frozen pipes, becomes a public benefactor, and we must admit that he has this merit, if we even feel that he is sometimes a private misfortune. Now is the time to send for the plumber and to take proper precautions against fire, not merely for our own sakes, but for the safety of the whole community.

A NEW CABINET, it is thought, will not be formed in France till the Assembly has determined the question of the constitutional bill.

The Religious Controversy in England.

The dispute provoked by Mr. Gladstone, without any apparent necessity or any very intelligible object, is kept up with vigor on both sides. Intelligent Protestants who wish to understand the merits of this controversy, and are willing to see what the case of the Catholics really is as presented by one of the very ablest of their champions, will find Dr. Newman one of the most courteous, considerate and pleasant of guides. He is, perhaps, the most exquisitely accomplished master of the English language among the living authors who write it. The delightful grace, ease, simplicity and persuasiveness of Dr. Newman's style have always excited the admiration of those differing most widely from him in sentiment, and his new book in reply to Mr. Gladstone, which he regards as his last, is a model of controversial writing which may be studied with advantage by disputants in every cause who would qualify themselves not merely to confute but to convince. Dr. Newman's Catholicity is not pitched in a very high key, and perhaps no writer ever so perfectly understood the art of tapering the wedge he intends to drive to the thinnest possible edge and prevent it from flying back under the heavy strokes of his beetle. On readers not utterly impervious to argument Dr. Newman's dexterously insinuating sincerity makes such gentle and gradual gains that they are carried along with him further than they are aware; and he is especially a gentle and persuasive guide for weak or doubting Catholics, or, as he calls them, "the little ones of Christ."

In considering Dr. Newman's positions we may be pardoned for a remark or two on the chief point in discussion as viewed by American minds. It is not easier for the Protestants than for the Catholics of this country to see any compelling necessity for Mr. Gladstone to stir up and inflame the slumbering animosity of religious sects. Why should he have sounded this sudden note of alarm against the pretensions of the Pope four years after its ostensible occasion? The Vatican Council was held in 1870, and it is its definition of the Pope's infallibility and jurisdiction is so truly alarming, as Mr. Gladstone contends, why did he not sound his trumpet at once, while the occasion was fresh? It cannot be pretended that in these four years the Pope has done anything to weaken the tie of allegiance which binds British subjects to their government. Be the powers which the Ecumenical Council conceded to the Pope greater or less, certain it is that they have been as yet mere *brutum fulmen* so far as any use could be made of them in dissolving or weakening the allegiance of the subjects of Queen Victoria. Pope Pius IX. is bowed down beneath the weight of years, and after bearing so long to interpose between British subjects and their sovereign nothing could seem more visionary and chimerical than a fear that this Pope, in the little remnant of his life, will raise any practical question which would cause British Catholics to hesitate between the duties they owe to the head of the State and the duties they owe to the head of their Church.

It is quite possible that the personal character of the successor of Pope Pius may cause uneasiness; but as neither Mr. Gladstone nor anybody can foresee who he will be it might have been as well for this Don Quixote of civil allegiance, after waiting four years since the Vatican Council, to have stayed his hand a few months longer, until he could judge whether the dogma of infallibility would not prove as harmless in the hands of Pope Pius' successor as in those of Pope Pius himself. The recent history of the Papacy renders alarm ridiculous, so far as political or civil allegiance is concerned. Within the last few years the Pope has been deprived of his temporal dominions, has been reduced to the condition of a subject of the King of Italy, has no longer a rood of territory over which he can claim to exercise the rights of a political sovereign, and it is in this period of deep humiliation and political impotence that Mr. Gladstone feels impelled to raise a cry of alarm against a dissolution of British allegiance!

If the Pope can absolve subjects from their civil allegiance why has he not done it in Italy? It is there, if anywhere, that the interests of the Papacy require him to stand on the extreme boundary of his rights. Italy is a Catholic country; its people are nearly unanimous in acknowledging the spiritual jurisdiction of the Pope and accepting the dogma of infallibility. He speaks their language, understands their character, has greater facilities for influencing them than for influencing any other portion of the Catholic Church. He has for years maintained an obstinate dispute with the government of United Italy. Why, then, has not the Pope released the subjects of King Victor Emmanuel from their allegiance? What danger can there be in England when facts demonstrate that he is so utterly powerless to control civil allegiance even in Italy? It seems to the American mind, Protestant as well as Catholic, that the history of Italy since the Vatican Council refutes and explodes the position of Mr. Gladstone by a signal *reductio ad absurdum*. If the Pope exerts no power over allegiance in the country of his birth and residence, in a country with whose government he has been waging a long contest involving all his political and territorial rights, a country whose whole population is Catholic—if in such a country the Pope is without any power to prevent the obedience of subjects to a hostile civil authority, how utterly absurd and preposterous it is to affect fears that he will disturb the loyalty of distant British subjects!

The Sermons Yesterday.

The tendency of the modern pulpit to teach morality rather than to discuss doctrines is again illustrated in our reports of the sermons delivered yesterday by our most eminent divines. The theology of Jonathan Edwards and great biblical students of his class is becoming obsolete now, when clergymen seem to be more concerned about the existence of sin than the question of its origin. The mysteries of "fate, free will, foreknowledge absolute," have been debated for thousands of years, and still remain mysteries, as of old; and it is not likely that they will ever be solved by man. It is well, therefore, for our religious teachers to dwell more earnestly upon the plain truths of Christianity than upon the metaphysics connected with it. One sermon like that of Mr. Heworth

upon the search for divine truth is worth volumes of abstract reasoning upon subjects which transcend human powers. The Rev. Mr. Moran preached upon the elements which insure the progress and perpetuity of the Christian religion, another practical subject, and the Rev. Father McCauley described the temptations that beset the path of humanity, and the means by which they can be successfully combated. Mr. Frothingham treated of a devout life, which he thought was not peculiar to any form of religion and not dependent upon any creed. These and other sermons, elsewhere published, show the practical tendencies of the pulpit in our day, as distinguished from the speculative character which it possessed in earlier periods, when religion was more of a philosophy than a daily life.

Another Letter from Mr. Curtis.

Mr. Curtis thinks that in our recent comparison of his views with those of Mr. Calhoun we misrepresented him, though not intentionally, and informs us that he accepts that statesman's construction of the guarantee clause as "entirely right." Of course we must consider that a writer is the best judge of his own meaning, but without the assistance of so authentic an expositor we should never have discovered the accordance between the construction of Mr. Curtis and that of Mr. Calhoun. In his previous letter Mr. Curtis stated in effect that he had changed none of the views expressed in his "History of the Constitution," and we felt authorized to regard his history as a correct statement of his present opinions. In that work he quotes the guarantee of "a republican form of government" as applicable to cases like Shay's rebellion, which was a mere case of domestic violence against the government of a State. According to Mr. Calhoun's exposition the guarantee quoted by Mr. Curtis has no application to cases of domestic violence against a State, like Shay's rebellion. Also in the letter which Mr. Curtis complains that we misrepresented, and which discusses the guarantee of republican government, he strongly reprobates the idea that Congress can interfere under that guarantee "without any call by the State or its people, and constituting itself the sole and absolute judge of the exigency." But, according to Mr. Calhoun "it would be a perfect absurdity" to require an application in cases arising under the guarantee of a republican form of government. Calhoun's argument hinges in great part on the fact that the constitution requires an application under the guarantee against domestic violence and not under the guarantee of a republican form of government. We think, therefore, that the conformity of Mr. Curtis' construction of the guarantee with that of Mr. Calhoun could not have been discovered by anybody but himself. According to Mr. Calhoun Congress is necessarily the sole judge of the exigencies which permit it to exercise its right of interference in cases of usurpation. "While I admit the right," he says, "I also admit that it is a high and delicate one; the highest and most delicate of any conferred on the federal government." This delicacy explains why Congress has never passed a general law for carrying out this particular guarantee. There is a general law clothing the President with authority to act in cases of domestic violence and in cases of invasion, but Congress has reserved to itself the sole authority to decide on each case as it arises under the guarantee of republican government.

Mr. Curtis discusses the Louisiana case as if it were only an ordinary case of a disputed election, and on that theory of the facts nobody could very well differ with him as to the impolicy of federal interference. But is it a mere case of a disputed election? If so, there has been a great deal of misplaced denunciation of the Kellogg "usurpation." If it be in truth the flagrant "usurpation" which has been declaimed against with so much democratic fervor why does Mr. Curtis shrink from discussing it on that basis? Why does he belittle it to a mere case of a disputed election unless he is conscious that if he admitted it to be a usurpation his arguments would not hold?

A republican form of government is one in which the rulers are the free choice of the people and hold their offices in conformity with the constitution and laws. If Mr. Curtis believes there is such a government in Louisiana he is quite logical in contending that there is no occasion for Congress to execute the guarantee of a republican form of government. But if, as a majority of Congress believes, Kellogg is a usurper and McEnery has no legal title to the office, there is at present no government in Louisiana republican in form, and it is the duty of Congress to see that the people have an opportunity to re-establish one. If there be any other way of restoring republican government than by giving the people a chance to elect their rulers and revise their constitution, nobody, so far as we are aware, has ever yet defined what it is.

The Democracy in Council.

The festivities at Albany this winter were made more delightful by the novelty of the situation, and the astonishment from which the participants have not yet fully recovered. It has been so long since the democracy had anything to be festive about that they can be pardoned for any exuberance of spirits. The inheritor of a fortune late in life is not more elated than these gentlemen are who have come into possession of power after years of painful deprivation. Our Albany correspondent told us the other day that there were sixty-three leaders of the democracy in the Assembly—a fact which recalls the story of the regiment in which all the men were officers. To-day we have another letter descriptive of the entertainment given by a distinguished lady of Albany society to Governor Tilden, which Mr. Bryant and other eminent persons in politics and literature attended. It is a great thing to be able to entertain a democratic Governor, and the rarity of the event naturally creates unusual excitement. One feature of these gatherings is the political significance they assume, as, for instance, when we find the gentlemen present nominating each other for the Presidency. Mr. Bryant has nominated Mr. Tilden, Mr. Tilden has nominated Mr. Seymour, and now Mr. Seymour should nominate Mr. Bryant. We only hope that these courtesies will be continued and that the course of the democracy party in Albany will not make them a mockery in the near future. There are plenty of candidates for the Presidency, but what the party most needs is a few statesmen who will make the

nomination of any one something more than the compliment of a social gathering.

The Government and the Telegraph Lines.

We have read with some interest an important bill introduced into Congress by General Butler, entitled, "An act to establish certain telegraphic lines in the several States and Territories as post roads, and to regulate the transmission of commercial and other intelligence by telegraph." This bill proposes that all telegraph lines be made post roads, and that the government shall advertise for proposals to send messages over the telegraph lines on the same principle as the mail is transmitted over the post roads. The telegraph companies are directed to receive all messages sent to them from any other company at the regular rates. It forbids all companies from taking part in the collection or purchase of commercial news. It provides that the tariff on messages by cable from offices in foreign countries shall not exceed, in addition to the cable rate, the ordinary rate. It directs that press despatches shall be sent to all journals and associations without discrimination, and that there shall be no favoritism shown to any newspaper. It provides that all telegraphic messages shall be privileged communications under the law; that tariffs shall be uniform; that government messages shall have priority; and any person violating this act can be fined one thousand dollars and imprisoned for two years.

This bill is one of the most important measures that has been introduced into Congress. Many features of it we approve. At the same time, there are other features of it which do not commend themselves to us. We fear that to have the government interfere in a private business is a bad precedent. Nor do we see very well how any government can take possession of the telegraph wires as post roads without making some compensation to those who own these roads, who have established and supported them from the first, taking the risks of their success. A bill might be introduced, on the same principle, directing the Herald to publish all the advertisements sent to the other papers at the rates which the other papers charge, and forbidding us from choosing our own rates. These, however, are objections that occur to us on a hasty reading of General Butler's measure. Our view has always been that the best way to solve this problem, which is always a serious one, is for the government to adopt the postal system. If we are to take possession of the telegraph wires, let us do it on the principle upon which it has been managed in England. But how we can take possession of the lines without compensation to the companies is a matter which may be clear to General Butler but which is not so to us.

At the same time there is enough good in the bill to justify its immediate consideration. This business requires reform, and under the pressure of public opinion reform must come.

To-day the Beecher trial will be resumed, and we give a recapitulation of some important events and a sketch of the career and writings of the celebrated defendant.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Robert Browning's new poem is entitled "Aristophanes' Apology." Ex-Governor Robert McClelland, of Michigan, is staying at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. A translation of Sainte Beuve's "English Portraits" will be published by Henry Holt & Co. Vice President Henry Wilson arrived at the Grand Central Hotel yesterday from Washington. General Robert C. Schenck's little book on the great game of draw poker is to be printed in New York.

Miss Albani arrived in this city yesterday from Pittsburgh, and took up her residence at the Clarendon Hotel.

Of 55,000 babies born in Paris every year 30,000 are "put out to nurse"—that is, put out to be done for by process of self murder.

Victor Cherbuliez's novel, "Sans Rival," has been translated by Francis A. Shaw, and will be published by Estes & Lauriat, of Boston.

In Paris they are talking of Canrobert as likely to play one of these days for the Prince Imperial the little game recently played in Madrid by General Primo de Rivera to the profit of Alfonso.

A sumptuous book has appeared in Paris, entitled "Jesus Christ, par Louis Veuillot." The book is magnificently illustrated with sixteen chromo-lithographs and 180 engravings of every school of Christian art.

The British public officers now print most long official letters, instead of having them written. For £100 a year, including the cost of paper, the work of several copying clerks is done. It thus appears that the printer is driving out the copyist.

Dr. Keenly, as a candidate for Parliament, says to the voters of his district:—"I believe that in ten years, with the Magna Charta Association at my back, I shall make our country prosperous, happy and free." While he was at it he might as well have given himself eleven years.

A learned German critic, Dr. Godeke, has written a pamphlet on the long-disputed question whether Shakespeare's sonnets were addressed to a man or a woman. He attempts to show that not Lord Southampton but Anne Hathaway was the "friend and love" to whom the poet addressed his impassioned verses.

In so far as Dr. Newman's letter is a reply to Mr. Gladstone's impeachment of ultramontaniam it is an abatement of the extreme claims of the ultramontane party, and consequently his treatment of the question is not at all relieved by the thoroughgoing party in the Church, and is only not disavowed because they do not care to indicate any want of harmony just now.

Although the editions of the Holy Bible are reckoned by the thousands, there has never yet been a portable edition in good type until the appearance of the new handy volume edition of the Bible in London. This is in eleven little volumes, any one of which will go in the pocket, the whole text being printed in large clear type and on good paper.

In Sicily a woman who seemed dying from consumption, but was without many of the common symptoms of that disease, was loosed, by the use of the laryngoscope, to have a look firmly adherent by both extremities to the walls of the trachea passages at their upper portion, and so the difficulty of breathing, speaking, coughing, &c., were easily explained. He was got out by surgical operation.

It is said in Berlin that the Vatican has asked the Prussian bishops to declare whether there are no means to fill up vacant livings in their dioceses consistent with canonical law, yet compatible with the new ecclesiastical statutes of the kingdom. This remarkable step of the Papacy is supposed to have been occasioned by the constantly increasing number of vacant livings and the constantly decreasing number of students of Catholic theology.

Maurice Grau has his neat perception of the humorous as is proper for a manager; but apparently he had less faith in the "New Magdalen" than he might have had, and on the first night he thought it would be judicious to "punch" the house liberally. But, strange to say, the public that receives free tickets was, for the occasion, inaccessibly. Tooker had been before him. Everybody pointed declined the "compliments," because "we have not received tickets for 'Henry V.'"